

**Q - Since the Executive Order states...**

"All classified records shall be automatically declassified on December 31 of the year that is 25 years from the date of origin, except as provided in paragraphs (b)–(d) and (g)–(j) of this section. If the date of origin of an individual record cannot be readily determined, the date of original classification shall be used instead."

**Does this mean all classified records are automatically declassified after 25 years, even if they are not reviewed for declassification?**

A - The answer is "No"... While some may take this to mean that if a record has not been reviewed and has reached its 25 year maturity mark, it is automatically declassified. However, the only way it can be determined that the record is covered (or not covered) under paragraphs (b)-(d) and (g)-(i) is to review those records first. In other words, all permanent, classified records remain classified until they are determined to not be covered by the exceptions listed in the EO or they are reviewed and properly declassified. In addition to the above, Kyl/Lott mandates a page-by-page review of all records that are likely to contain RD/FRD. All DoD records meet this requirement and therefore must be reviewed prior to declassification to prevent highly sensitive information from being released.